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The Famous History of the
Valiant LONDON 'Prentice.



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The History of the
Valiant LONDON 'Prentice.



C H A P. I.

An Account of his Birth, Education, and
 early Valour.

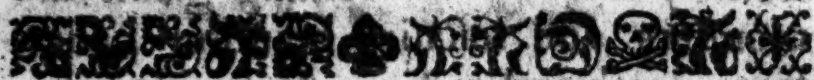
IN times past there was born in the famous county of Chester, a youth of excellent beauty, promising a great many fine things in his infancy; to promote which, the parents being wealthy, spared no pains to educate him in the best manner the country afforded; nor did he, as he grew in years fail in any part of their expectation. He took much delight in learning, but nothing so much enflamed his mind as the desire of exercising himself in feats of arms; and he was the more incited to it by reading the famous adventures of Knights Errant, how success-

ful they were in overcoming giants and monsters and rescuing beautiful Ladies from death and misery. And as those heroick thoughts encreased, so he found his strength abound; Nature not sparing to give him strength according to his limbs; so that in his very childish encounters, those who surpassed him in years, was not able to resist his force, nor came they near him in wrestling, jumping throwing



the hammer, stone, or dart; which made his parents not a little proud of such a blessing, whom they named Aurelius, as one that promised great things.

CH A P.



C H A P. II.

An Account of his Adventures and Enterprizes, in which he won the fair Virgins Hearts.

WHEN Aurelius was at the age of fourteen, he went to a Wake to recreate himself with the country youths, where he behaved so well as to gain vast praise, and took so well with the virgins, that some of them began to feel a fever in their minds; which Cupid, who at such meetings is seldom backward in promoting the business of love, failed not to encrease. But he, as not yet capable of feeling the flame of that passion, regarded not their amorous glances, nor understood the silent language of inflamed hearts; though it created him all those enemies who were causelessly jealous of him, as a most dangerous rival, and gathered reasons for it from the many praises their girls bestowed on him in his absence.

C H A P.



C H A P. III.

Of Lucinda's falling in Love with him,
and of her Suitors conspiring against
him to kill him.

OU R youth encreasing in strength
and beauty with his years, and con-
tinuing as occasion offered, to appear in
publick among those admirable virgins,
who in a manner doated on him, and
wished to be the mistress of his affections.
Lucinda, the lovely daughter of a weal-
thy shepherd, was the chief, who sought
by many means to oblige him, and let
him understand her passion; but modestly
sealing her lips, he could not interpret
her dumb signs, but continued his merri-
ment, having no regard to her passion;
which made her sigh and grow melan-
choly, refusing the address of all that a-
dored her.

So sudden an alteration made them
restless till they knew the cause; which
they soon did by her companions, to
whom she told her passion; as likewise

by a letter she had written, in order to send to him by a trusty friend, but had accidentally dropped it ; which contained these words :

“ A U R E L I U S,

“ SEEING you do not understand the language of a love-sick virgins eyes, pardon the liberty I take to let you know Lucinda doats on you, and begs you would requite her love with your love, who for your sake renounces the rest of mankind.—Then have compassion on for ever miserable must remain

LUCINDA:.

This gave the amouirists all knowledge upon whose account they found such cold entertainment from their beloved mistress, whom every one of them fearing to lose, bent his study how to remove the obstacle which stood between them and their much desired happiness. Some were of opinion that nothing but the death of Aurelius could effect it ; but others of a milder disposition, declared, That it would not only be too much a

cruelty, but bring their own lives into question : Therefore considering women was more generally taken with the beauty of the body than the soul, they judged it fit to deform him by person ; but how to get it they knew not, so at last they resolved to disfigure his face with wounds, and put an end to the passion of their dear Lucinda, which they knew no other way to extinguish.



CHAP.



C H A P. VI.

Of their Attempt to destroy Aurelius,
who overcomes them, and leaves them
naked in a Wood.

THE plot being thus laid against our
valiant youth, many ways were
sought for an opportunity to put it into
practice, until at last they understood he
was gone to pay a visit to an aunt of his,
who lived at a village, about two miles
from his father's house, and he must re-
turn by a wood. This lucky opportunity,
as they imagined, it made them all leap
for joy ; being four in number they all
armed themselves with mischevious wea-
pons, and in disguise placed themselves in
ambush under some trees, in the way he
must pass, each swearing to the other to
keep the thing secret ; though they kept
not their oaths, as you will hear.

Long they had not staid, but as they
wished, our valiant youth never dreaming
of such base treachery, came on, and bear-
ing the bushes rustle, he made a halt, to
see what was the cause, when out leaped

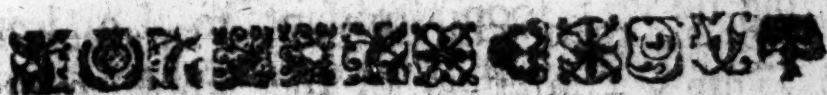
the lovers, and encompassing of him, after they had used many terrible words, and reviled him, they made in to grapple with him, who being ignorant of their design, and scorning to fear, took the two foremost, one in each hand, and by main force beat their hands together, that they rang like a barber's bason; so that



being stunned by such lusty knocks, after staggering some few paces down they fell and having by this time wrested a good weapon from one of them, he sat upon the other two with such a fury, giving them several wounds, that finding the blood run about their ears, they fell upon their knees, and cried for mercy, and so did the other two when they recovered from their trance; yet they could not

obtain their wish till he had thrashed 'em into a confession of the whole matter, and thereby became sensible of the love Lucinda bore him; and that she might hear of what had happened on this occasion, and their villainy to be rewarded with disgrace, he made them strip, and with such tackling as their garments afforded, he bound them to four trees stark naked, where those hot-brained lovers took a cooling till the morning, which discovered the whole intrigue. — This adventure for some time became the mirth of the country; but most of all it pleased the fair Lucinda, whose favour they lost by the same.





C H A P. V.

He is put Apprentice to a Merchant, and leaves Lucinda.

THE father of young Aurelius having received an exact account of what happened, and fearing these lovers might study some revenge to repair all this disgrace, as likewise to prevent any amours which might happen between him and Lucinda, to whom he was not willing he should be married, took an opportunity to discourse with him about putting him in away which might render him capable of living creditably in the world; when finding him pliable, he told him, It was his pleasure he should go to London, and there go apprentice to some honourable calling, whereby he might be a comfort to him, and bid him chuse what profession he liked.

He had not long considered before he replied, That seeing it was his pleasure, he consented, and for the desire he had of seeing strange countries, he could like a Merchant. To this the old man agree-

ing he was soon after sent to London, and placed to a Turkey merchant upon London Bridge.—Upon his departure he wrote the following lines to Lucinda :

“ PARDON me beauteous maid, if Love has not yet made a conquest over me. — That you deserve what love can bestow, I must confess ; but I alas ! must go and wander through the world, e’er I can love. — Then be contented, and never weep for your well-wisher,
AURELIUS.”

This flat denial made the fair Lucinda shed many a tear, and bewail her hard fortune, in loving where she was not repaid ;—but soon after a rich farmer’s son offering his service to her, she having with much struggling overcome all her former affections, changed her passion, and sacrificed her virginity to the pleasure of her new lover ; where revelling in excels of Joy, we will leave them, and follow Aurelius.



C H A P. IV.

Of his gaining the Esteem of his Master,
and of his Passion for Dorinda his fair
Daughter.

OUR youth upon trial, proved so very diligent and respectful, that it was not long before he was bound, according to the custom of the honourable city of London, and doubling his diligence, he won the respect of the whole family, not refusing to do any thing that might please or be for his master's interest. And what time he had to spare he spent in manly exercises, recreating himself in the fencing school, and in martial exploits, gaining the name of a bold and hardy youth, and one who promised great and extraordinary things.

In this happy state he lived near three years, when Fortune, who is as unconstant as the wind, conspired to give him some disturbance; for fair Dorinda, his master's daughter, a handsome virgin; about sixteen years of age, returning from school, where she had been brought up

at board, her modesty, winning behaviour and charming graces, by his often gazing on her, by degrees conceived such a love for that excellent creature, that he was no longer master of his heart, which his eyes had given away. — For a while he smothered the flame, but it soon broke out again the fiercer, and then he knew experimentally what Lucinda had suffered. — Often he attempted to discover his passion, and as often fearing to offend, he stayed the words at his tongue's end; and all he could do was to sigh, and stand confounded in her presence, while the innocent lady would frequently ask the reason; but had no other answer than what his eyes delivered in burning glances.

Thus he continued for a month, or more, and at last resolved to make his passion known; and he soon found an opportunity to drop a letter in the way of Dorinda, containing the following words.



"Beauteous Dorinda,

"After many sighs and eager looks, I have presumed to let you know, if this comes into your fair hand, that I love you better than my own life; and to be requitted with your love, lo! there is nothing so hazardous but I will undertake. The inequality I do confess is great, yet love is a power obedient to no law but its own. Pity me then as a lover, who loves you above all earthly things; and look not on me as your fathers servant, but as your slave, by whose smiles I must live, and without which life will be the most miserable.

AURELIUS."

This did not a little surprise the beauteous maid, who considered, that altho' he was then a servant, we might for all that have cause to love him; yet as is it might be disagreeable to her parents if she should countenance his affections, therefore preferring her duty and obedience to her fancy, or her passion for Aurelius, the next time she met him her words to him were, That she could not but wonder

how he should presume to make love to her, who was his own master's daughter, before half his time was expired ; and desired him not to make mention of it any more, either by letter or words, lest her father should be made acquainted with it to his prejudice. And so with a scornful frown she left him, as one struck with astonishment and grief.



CHAP.



C H A P. VII.

He gets leave to go to Turkey, and of what ensued.

AURELIUS, being thus repulsed in his first love, found himself altogether restless, and that as often as he beheld his beautiful mistress, his flames were encreased, and his torture more and more augmented; and though he tried many ways to give rest to his labouring mind, yet he found them in vain; and so concluded, That unless he was removed from that beautiful object, he must be always miserable, and perceiving her looks and carriage every day more and more disdainful towards him, he at last resolved to desire his master to let him go his factor in the next Turkey fleet; which request was granted him by the merchant; and so in very gallant equipage he took his leave, though not without some tears from his scornful mistress, who by this time began to relent that she had so un-

kindly repulsed his addresses ; but being beautiful and young and considering that to those advantages her indulgent father would add a large portion, her thoughts of a higher advancement hushed up that care ; and so they parted, Aurelius to his ship, and the Lady to her chamber, where we must leave her, who was soon after married to a rich merchant.



CHAP

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C H A P. VIII.

His Arrival in Turkey, and Reception:
his overthrowing the Turkish Cham-
pions, and killing a Turkish Prince.

NOW the gallant Aurelius having passed the dangers of the sea, after contending with the storms of wind and love, landed at Constantinople; where he was received with much respect by the English merchants and factors residing there; and behaved himself so well in the management of his affairs, that he gained a general esteem; and in all this he forgot not to exercise his valour, as often as occasion required; and being by this time grown to full strength, he found no one able to encounter him, though too modest of his abilities.

Now it happened on the marriage of one of the Turk's daughters, great sports were prepared, and all the valiant knights summoned to exercise at tilts and tournaments in honor of the ladies and their

This news pleased Aurelius so much that he resolved to make one among 'em, and shew his prowess for the honour of the English nation, against the proud Infidels, and thereupon he provided armor, with a horse, sword, and a strong lance, bearing in his shield a Golden Phenix, to signify he was a loyal subject to the Virgin Queen, and under it Neptune bridling the ocean, shewing, That the sovereignty of the sea depended upon her will; as for his armour, it was White, signifying Innocency.

Thus bravely accoutred, he hasted to the lists, to wait the trumpets sound; where all the Nobles and ladies was seated in their different degrees, clad in gold and gems.—When on a sudden three Turks well mounted, and richly armed, advanced with their mooned shields, and with a loud voice bid defiance, as the bridegroom's champions, to all the Knights in Christendom; which made Aurelius impatient to let them know what English valour was; but perceiving the champions of other nations preparing for the encounter, he forebore until he might see their fortune; so that his honour might

be the greater, by overcoming the conquerors; nor did he miss, for the Turks being of a monstrous size, and well experienced in feat of arms, at the first encounter cast them from their saddles, and so served three others; which made Aurelius think it was time for him to advance, and setting spurs to his horse, he met the foremost with a full stroke on the breast that tumbled him with his heels uppermost, quite over the crupper; and passing on, struck the second on the crest, with such a force that it broke, and the lance entering the brain, he fell dead to the ground; which the third perceiving, came on with his long sword, and with one blow cut through Aurelius's shield; but he charged furiously on the Infidel; made him give ground, and after several sad wounds, obliged him to kiss the earth and beg his life.

To revenge this disgrace of their champion, the Turkish prince, by leave of his father-in-law, entered the lists, and with great rage defied the bold Aurelius, and swore by Mahomet that he would chastise the great affront, and with reproachful expressions bid him come on. On which

they set spurs to their horses, and met with such fury, that their lances broke, and shivered in the air ; whereupon the prince drew his sword, but Aurelius made at him with the truncheon of his spear, and gave him a weighty blow on the top of his helmet, which broke his neck ; so he fell down dead.—After which none durst engage the young valiant English Champion.



C H A P. IX.

He destroys two Lions that were prepared to devour him ; and marries the King's Daughter.

NO W the Turk, upon Notice that bold Prince Orondon his son-in-law was dead, (whom he imagined only to be stunned, vowed that Aurelius, who he called an English Boy, should suffer the most cruel death that ever any man did ; and thereupon he sent a strong guard to seize him, and convey him to prison, until he had consulted what manner of cruel death to put him to ; and in

the end it was concluded, that he should be cast alive to two fierce lions, who to make them the greedier, were kept fasting several days.

The appointed day for his death being come, and the King, his Nobles, and the Ladies being seated to behold the execution, the brave youth was brought forth, in a cambrick shirt, and drawers of white sattin embroidered with gold. and a crimson cap on his head; but he had scarce time to bow respectfully to the Ladies, who praised his manly beauty, and began to pity his misfortunes, before the lions were let loose; who at the sight of their prey began to roar most horribly, inso-much that the spectators trembled.

Aurelius, whom death daunted not, now laying aside all fear, as they came thus fiercely to him with open mouths, thrust his hands down their throats, and before they had power to get from his strong arms, he forced out both their hearts, and so laid them dead at his feet; demanding of the King what other dangerous enterprizes he had to put him to, and he would gladly do them for the

honour of his Queen and his dear country's sake.

When immediately the Emperor descended from his throne, embraced him, pardoned him, and said, He believed him to be some angel; but on his assurance that he was no more than a man, the Emperor offered him his daughter Theoraze, with great riches, who for his sake became a Christian; and after spending some time in that place they returned to England, where they were received with great joy, and lived many years together very loving and happy.

F I N I S.

